

Message Text

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50

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

AID-05 EUR-12 OMB-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 /090 W

----- 023158

R 090853Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7362

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SEATO, RP

SUBJECT: MANILA PRESS FORECASTS DEMISE OF SEATO

REF: MANILA 12333

1. ITEMS IN MANILA PRESS OF SEPTEMBER 9 CELEBRATING
21ST BIRTHDAY OF SEATO PREDICT ITS EARLY DEMISE AND IMPLY
(PROBABLY MISLEADINGLY) THAT RTG AND GOP ARE IN AGREEMENT
REGARDING DESIRABILITY OF RAPID PHASEOUT. STORY IN
"BULLETIN TODAY" STATES THAT "PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND
HAVE CONFERRED AND AGREED THAT SEATO'S ORIGINAL ROLE TO
CONTAIN CHINA AND STOP THE ADVANCE OF COMMUNISM IN THE
REGION IS NO LONGER VALID." LATER PARAGRAPH OF STORY
NOTES THAT ON RECENT VISIT KUKRIT AGREED WITH MARCOS
THAT MANILA PACT WOULD REMAIN WHILE SEATO PHASED OUT IN
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ACCORDANCE WITH NEW REALITIES.

2. EDITORIAL IN ANTI-US "ORIENT NEWS" ENTITLED, "TAPS FOR SEATO", SHEDS CROCODILE TEAR OR TWO AND URGES "WELL DONE" AS SEATO FLAG COMES DOWN.

3. AT ANNUAL SEATO-SPONSORED MODEL VILLAGE AWARDS CEREMONY HELD SEPTEMBER 9, OFFICIALS OF DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT "MODEL VILLAGE" PROJECT WOULD CONTINUE EVEN THOUGH SEATO LIKELY TO BE DEFUNCT BY THIS TIME NEXT YEAR.

COMMENT: WHILE PRESS CONTINUING TO SOFTEN UP PUBLIC FOR SEATO PHASEOUT, COVERAGE DOES NOT REFLECT LATEST ROMULO VIEWS (AS EXPRESSED TO US BY VERCELLES) THAT CO-TERMINATION OF SEATO ORGANIZATION AND MANILA PACT DESIRABLE (REFTEL).
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: ElyME
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Film Number: D750311-0543
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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06 JUL 2006

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